Variation of rates of LPG cylinders

597. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to fix a uniform rate throughout the country for an LPG cylinder;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the reasons for the variation in rates of LPG cylinders in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) According to the present pricing mechanism of petroleum products including LPG, the ex-storage prices of products at all primary pricing points is uniform throughout the country. The price of LPG cylinder varies from place to place on account of freight element from bottling plants and local levies applicable at these places.

ONGC officials posted at Nazira, Assam

598. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officials of the ONGC posted at Nazira, Assam, spent huge amount of money on tour programmes during the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these officials hired vehicles at an exorbitant rate for transporting materials; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National Gas Grid

599. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decision of the Gas Authority of India Limited to take out natural gas from upper Assam oil fields for creation of a national gas grid;

(b) if so, on what grounds Assam Gas company is being deprived of the chance of creating a gas grid with connecting pipe lines for the local supply of natural gas for industrial and domestic use in the State; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is sufficient man-power and expertise to deal with natural gas in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Gas Authority of India Limited have undertaken a study on feasibility of transporting gas through a trunk pipeline within Assam. This study does not envisage any gas being taken out of Assam for a national gas grid. Assam gas Company could be associated in this work once the report is received.

Borrowing by O.N.G.C.

600. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission propose to borrow 500 million dollars as loans from abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions on which the loans will be raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM